

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
(August 13, 2014)

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS: Please click on the physician's name to access a link to a copy of the public documents for these physicians.

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medicine took the following actions:

Travis R.B. Brownell, M.D., a 35-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices emergency medicine in Sioux City, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement on August 8, 2014. The Board charged Dr. Brownell with violating the terms of a physician health contract that he entered into with the Iowa Physician Health Program for substance abuse. Under the terms of the August 8, 2014, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Brownell a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty. The Board also placed Dr. Brownell on probation for a period of five years subject to substance abuse and mental health counseling and monitoring.

Victoria M. Gaus, M.D., a 66-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who currently practices physical and rehabilitation medicine in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement on August 8, 2014. Dr. Gaus' Iowa license has been inactive due to nonrenewal since December 1, 1987. On June 13, 2013, Dr. Gaus was disciplined by the Florida Board of Medicine (Florida Board) for prescribing inappropriate and excessive quantities or combinations of controlled substances to five patients in Miramar, Florida, between December 2008, and March 2010. The Florida Board issued Dr. Gaus a reprimand and ordered her to pay a \$20,000 fine plus costs. The Florida Board also permanently prohibited Dr. Gaus from owning, operating or practicing in a pain management clinic and prescribing schedule II – III controlled substances and benzodiazepines. Under the terms of the August 8, 2014, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, Dr. Gaus voluntarily surrendered her Iowa medical license.

Thomas J. Getta, M.D., a 58-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and currently practices in Coralville, Iowa, had the terms of his probation terminated by the Board on August 6, 2014. Dr. Getta entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board on August 6, 2009. The Board charged Dr. Getta with failing to provide appropriate obstetrical and gynecological care to multiple patients in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, between May 2005 and July 2007. The Board issued Dr. Getta a Citation and Warning and placed him on probation for a period of five years. On August 6, 2014, Dr. Getta completed the terms of his probation and the Board returned his Iowa medical license to its full privileges, free and clear, of all restrictions.

Stephen B. Gruba, M.D., a 61-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced family medicine in Corning, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement on August 8, 2014. The Board charged Dr. Gruba with inappropriately accessing the medical records of multiple individuals who were not under his care for other than a legitimate medical purpose in violation of patient privacy standards in Corning, Iowa, in 2012. Under the terms of the August 8, 2014, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Gruba a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$7,500 civil penalty and complete a Board-approved professional ethics program.

Jill M. Hunt, M.D., a 60-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who currently practices occupational medicine and wound care in Dubuque, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement on August 8, 2014. The Board charged Dr. Hunt with failing to provide appropriate pain management and failing to timely complete dictation for multiple patients in Dubuque, Iowa, between May 2009 and November 2010. Under the terms of the August 8, 2014, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Hunt a Citation and Warning and ordered her to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. The Board also prohibited Dr. Hunt from prescribing, administering or dispensing controlled substances for the treatment of chronic pain until and unless she demonstrates to the Board that she is competent to provide such care with reasonable skill and safety and receives written approval from the Board. The Board also ordered Dr. Hunt to complete a Board-approved professional ethics program and medical record keeping course and placed her on probation for a period of five years subject to monitoring, including prescribing audits.

Lynette I. Iles, M.D., a 50-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine in Washington, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement on August 8, 2014. On February 12, 2009, Dr. Iles entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement. The Board charged Dr. Iles with failing to provide appropriate chronic pain treatment to multiple patients and failing to maintain appropriate professional boundaries with patients. Dr. Iles voluntarily completed over thirty credit hours of continuing medical education for the appropriate chronic pain treatment and maintaining appropriate professional boundaries. Dr. Iles also agreed to be monitored by the Iowa Physician Health Program. The Board issued Dr. Iles a Citation and Warning and placed her on probation for a period of five years subject to counseling and monitoring. On February 12, 2014, Dr. Iles completed the terms of her probation. On January 24, 2014, the Board charged Dr. Iles with failing to provide appropriate obstetrical care to multiple patients in Washington, Iowa, between 2005 and 2010. Under the terms of the August 8, 2014, Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Iles a Citation and Warning and ordered her to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty. The Board also permanently prohibited Dr. Iles from practicing obstetrics and placed her on probation for a period of five years subject to remediation and monitoring.

Michael K. Johnson, D.O., a 51-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine in Indianola, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement on August 8, 2014. The Board charged Dr. Johnson with pre-signing prescriptions and allowing his nurse to fill out the remainder of the prescription blanks on multiple occasions in Indianola, Iowa, between 2008 and 2012. The nurse obtained numerous controlled substances by altering the prescriptions to allow for refills and by calling in prescriptions that were not authorized, for family members and a family friend. Under the terms of the August 8, 2014, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Johnson a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty and complete a Board-approved prescribing course and professional ethics program.

Kevin A. Kimm, D.O., a 61-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced general medicine in Blue Earth, Minnesota, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him by the Board on August 8, 2014. Dr. Kimm's Iowa medical license has been inactive due to nonrenewal since November 1, 2012. On March 9, 2013, Dr. Kimm entered into a Stipulation and Order with the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice (Minnesota Board). The Minnesota Board alleged that Dr. Kimm is unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety at this time due to illness. The Minnesota Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Kimm's Minnesota medical license. The Iowa Board charged Dr. Kimm with being disciplined by the Minnesota Board. A hearing is scheduled on October 2, 2014.

Steve R. Lasater, M.D., a 61-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced hormone replacement therapy in Grand Rapids and Wixom, Michigan, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement on August 8, 2014. Dr. Lasater's Iowa license has been inactive due to nonrenewal since July 1, 1981. On January 16, 2013, Dr. Lasater was disciplined by the Michigan Board of Medicine (Michigan Board) for failing to provide appropriate hormone replacement therapy to an elderly female patient between December 8, 2010, and January 12, 2011. The Michigan Board issued Dr. Lasater a Reprimand and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 fine and restitution to the patient. On March 19, 2014, Dr. Lasater was disciplined by the Michigan Board for failing to provide appropriate hormone replacement therapy to a female patient between January 12, 2011, and September 18, 2011. The Michigan Board placed him on probation for a period of one year and ordered him to pay a \$5,000 fine and restitution to the patient. The Michigan Board also ordered Dr. Lasater to successfully complete 10 hours of continuing medical education for the treatment of post-menopausal women. Under the terms of the August 8, 2014, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, Dr. Lasater voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license.

Kevin P. Lipscomb, M.D., a 50-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices family medicine in Palmetto, Florida, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement on August 8, 2014. On February 11, 2013, Dr. Lipscomb was disciplined by the Florida Board of Medicine (Florida Board) for failing to provide appropriate care to a 54-year-old male patient with diabetes in Palmetto, Florida, in February 2011, resulting in the patient's death. The Florida Board issued Dr. Lipscomb a Letter of Concern and ordered him to pay a \$10,000 fine plus costs. The Florida Board also ordered Dr. Lipscomb to complete a medical record keeping course and continuing medical education for the appropriate treatment of diabetes and risk management. Dr. Lipscomb successfully completed all of the requirements established by the Florida Board. Under the terms of the August 8, 2014, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Lipscomb a Citation and Warning for being disciplined by the Florida Board.

Tuvi Mendel, M.D., a 49-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices orthopedic surgery in Davenport, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement on August 8, 2014. The Board charged Dr. Mendel with inadvertently performing surgery on a patient's left ankle when the patient was scheduled to undergo surgery on the right ankle. Dr. Mendel recognized the error after he completed the procedure and immediately informed the patient and her family about the error. The patient chose to undergo surgery on the right ankle as well. Under the terms of the August 8, 2014, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Mendel a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty and he submitted a written corrective action plan which describes the steps he has taken to avoid such errors in the future.

Steven E. Miller, M.D., a 55-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who formerly practiced cardiovascular medicine in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, had formal disciplinary charges filed against him by the Board on August 8, 2014. Dr. Miller's Iowa medical license has been inactive due to nonrenewal since January 1, 2011. On November 9, 2011, Dr. Miller entered into an Agreement to Voluntarily Surrender his South Dakota Medical License with the South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners due to a mental health condition. A hearing is scheduled on October 2, 2014.

Rene F. Recinos, M.D., a 48-year-old Iowa-licensed physician who practices surgery in Mason City, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement on August 8, 2014. The Board charged Dr. Recinos with inadvertently performing trigger release surgery on a patient's right ring finger when the patient was scheduled to undergo trigger release surgery on the right long finger, requiring additional surgery. Dr. Recinos recognized the error, informed the patient and subsequently performed the correct procedure. Under the terms of the August 8, 2014, combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, the Board issued Dr. Recinos a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty and he submitted a written corrective action plan which describes the steps he has taken to avoid such errors in the future.

Andrew J. Stefani, D.O., a 31-year-old physician who formerly participated in a family medicine residency training program in Des Moines, Iowa, completed his Board-ordered probation. On March 29, 2012, the Board charged Dr. Stefani with failing to provide complete, accurate and truthful information, and failing to update the information, on his application for an Iowa resident physician license. On August 14, 2012, the Board issued a Decision and Order. The Board concluded that Dr. Stefani failed to provide complete, accurate and truthful information, and failed to update the information, on his application for an Iowa resident physician license. The Board issued Dr. Stefani a Citation and Warning and ordered him to pay a \$2,000 civil penalty and complete a professional ethics program. The Board also placed him on probation for the remainder of his Iowa resident physician license and ordered him to fully comply with the monitoring requirements of the Iowa Physician Health Program (IPHP). Recently, Dr. Stefani completed his residency training program and his Iowa resident physician license expired as well as the terms of his Board-ordered probation. On August 7, 2014, the Board issued Dr. Stefani a permanent Iowa medical license and he agreed to continue to comply with the monitoring requirements of the IPHP.

When appropriate, disciplinary actions are reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, an electronic repository administered by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to track adverse license actions.

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS: Consumers can submit complaints against physicians through the Board's Website at www.medicalboard.iowa.gov, by calling (515) 281-5847, or by mail at 400 SW 8th Street, Suite C, Des Moines, IA 50309-4686.